

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-21 were pending in this Application. Claim 15 was previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 11-14, and 16-21 were allowed. Claims 1-10 were rejected. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claims 1-10 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner stated that current Claims 1-10 are not tied to another statutory class or do not transform the underlying subject matter to a different state or thing.

Applicants amended the method claims to include some of the disclosed elements that perform the steps as suggested by the Examiner. Hence, independent claims 1 and 5 now include the limitation of receiving a sequence of symbols by a Viterbi equalizer. Thus a signal stream is received by a physical entity, namely the Viterbi equalizer. Moreover, the Viterbi equalizer is configured in a specific way as described by the following steps. Finally, the trellis which is configured in the specific way is used to decode the incoming symbol stream. Thus, by decoding, the incoming signal stream is transformed into a different signal stream. No new matter has been introduced. In summary, Applicants believe that all objections with respect to 35 U.S.C §101 are now overcome.

Claims 11-14 and 16-21 were allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the art rejection regarding Claim 5. The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

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